

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IO-03 L-01 SR-02 ORM-01 PRS-01

VO-01 SCA-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 SY-02

INR-05 CIAE-00 PM-03 DODE-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 /048 W

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O R 221210Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3491

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL TABRIZ

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USINT BAGHDAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 3547

LIMDIS

DEPT PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT IZ IR US

SUBJ: BARZANI APPEALS FOR US PROTECTION

1. WASH POST'S JIM HOAGLAND APPROACHED EMBOFF MAR 22 TO RELAY URGENT REQUEST TO USG FROM KURDISH LEADER MUSTAFA BARZANI, WHOM HOAGLAND INTERVIEWED IN KURDISTAN NIGHT OF MAR 19-20. ACCORDING TO HOAGLAND, BARZANI DESCRIBED KURDISH CAUSE AS HOPELESS AND SAID THAT AS RESULT OF IRANIAN PRESSURE HE HAD ORDERED PESH MERGA TO LAY DOWN THEIR ARMS TO PREVENT FURTHER USELESS BLOODSHED. AT SAME TIME, HE APPEALED URGENTLY TO USG TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE VIS-A-VIS IRAQI AND IRANIAN GOVTs TO PROTECT HIS PEOPLE FROM "GENOCIDE", AND HE ALSO REQUESTED ASYLUM IN THE UNITED STATES FOR HIMSELF, HIS FAMILY AND HIS CLOSEST ASSOCIATES.

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2. HOAGLAND DESCRIBED ATMOSPHERE AT BARZANI'S HEADQUARTERS AS EXTREMELY SOMBER, WITH IDRIS AND MAHMOUD BARZANI, MAHMOUD OTHMAN ET AL EXHIBITING "TOTAL DESPAIR" OVER RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN NORTHERN IRAQ. (IN CONTRAST, BARZANI HIMSELF APPEARED UNRUFFLED AND ALMOST SERENE.) HOAGLAND SAID SOME PESH MERGA UNITS WERE ALREADY MOVING INTO IRAN AND SURRENDERING THEIR WEAPONS TO IRANIAN ARMY, BUT THAT CERTAIN OTHER UNITS WERE VOWING TO DISOBEY BARZANI'S ORDER AND TAKE TO HILLS TO CARRY ON STRUGGLE AGAINST IRAQI ARMY. BARZANI TOLD HOAGLAND IT WAS PLIGHT OF KURDISH CIVILIAN POPULATION THAT WORRIED HIM THE MOST, SINCE HE EXPECTED THEY WOULD SOON BE DEPRIVED OF ALL PROTECTION AGAINST HUNGER, DISEASE AND COLD, AS WELL AS SUBJECTED TO CRUELEST POSSIBLE TREATMENT AT HANDS OF IRAQI AUTHORITIES. ASKED BY HOAGLAND WHAT SPECIFIC ACTION USG MIGHT TAKE TO ALLEVIATE THIS SITUATION, BARZANI SUGGESTED USG SHOULD USE ITS INFLUENCE TO PROLONG CURRENT CEASEFIRE AT LEAST ANOTHER MONTH, I.E., THROUGH END OF APRIL.

3. HOAGLAND ESTIMATES THAT BARZANI AND HIS CLOSEST FOLLOWERS HAVE PROBABLY LEFT NORTHERN IRAQ BY NOW AND TAKEN REFUGE IN IRAN. HE BELIEVES THEY INTEND TO RELINQUISH ALL CONTROL OVER FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS IN IRAQI KURDISTAN IN HOPE THAT THIS WILL SOMEHOW ALLOW REMAINING KURDISH LEADERS TO COME TO TERMS WITH BAGHDAD REGIME AND AVOID IRAQI VENGEANCE BEING VISITED ON KURDISH PEOPLE AS A WHOLE.

4. MUCH OF FOREGOING WILL PROBABLY APPEAR IN WASH POST IN NEXT DAY OR TWO, BUT HOAGLAND WAS ANXIOUS TO BRING BARZANI'S APPEAL TO USG'S ATTENTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
GODLEY

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECRETARY'S PARTY.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GENOCIDE, KURDS, POLITICAL ASYLUM, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BEIRUT03547
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750101-0202
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750325/aaaaawnf.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUL 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <03 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BARZANI APPEALS FOR US PROTECTION
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IZ, IR, US, (BARZANI, MULLAH MUSTAFA)
To: STATE TEHRAN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006